

Claims 1-11 and 23-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C §112, 2nd paragraph. The claims have been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 20, 21, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a/b) as being anticipated by Southwest Airlines web page ("Southwest"). Claims 1-12 and 20-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,948,040 issued to DeLorme et al. on September 7, 1999 ("DeLorme et al."). It is assumed that this rejection is made to Claims 1-11 and 20-25.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 2, 9, 10, 20, 21, AND 22 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(a/b)

Applicants' invention, as recited in independent Claim 1, provides a method for providing a service for a traveler to acquire items at the traveler's destination comprising the steps of receiving a request from a traveler for obtaining at least one item at the traveler's destination location; selecting by the traveler a delivery location, which is associated with the destination location, to which the at least one item will be delivered; arranging for the at least one item to be supplied; arranging for the at least one supplied item to be delivered to the selected delivery location; and conducting a transaction with the traveler for the traveler to obtain the at least one item.

Applicants' invention, as recited by independent Claim 20, provides a method for providing a service for a traveler to acquire at least one item at the traveler's destination comprising the steps of receiving a request from a traveler for obtaining at least one item at the traveler's destination location; selecting by the traveler a delivery location, which is associated with the destination location, to where the at least one item will be delivered; providing the traveler with an option to one of rent and purchase the at least one item; arranging for the at least one item to be supplied; arranging for delivery of the at least one item to the selected delivery location; and conducting a transaction with the traveler for the traveler to obtain the at least one item.

Southwest is directed to receiving a request from a traveler making travel

reservations for traveling from a selected departure site to a selected arrival site at a selected arrival time, for arranging for car rental and hotel reservations at a location designated by Southwest at the arrival site for the time of arrival.

Hence, Southwest does not disclose or suggest a method for receiving a request from a traveler for obtaining at least one item at the traveler's destination location which allows the traveler to select a delivery location, which is associated with the destination location, to which the at least one item will be delivered, and arranging for the at least one supplied item to be delivered to the selected delivery location, as recited in Claim 1.

Furthermore, Southwest does not disclose or suggest a method for receiving a request from a traveler for obtaining at least one item at the traveler's destination location which allows the traveler to select a delivery location, which is associated with the destination location, to where the at least one item will be delivered, and arranging for delivery of the at least one item to the selected delivery location, as recited in Claim 20.

Therefore, independent Claims 1 and 20 are patentably distinct over Southwest. Dependent Claims 2, 9 and 10 and Claims 21, 22 depend from Claims 1 and 20, respectively, and therefore contain the same limitations as independent Claims 1 and 20, respectively. Therefore, for at least the same reasons given for independent Claims 1 and 20, Claims 2, 9, 10, 21 and 22 are believed to be patentable over Southwest, and the allowance of Claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 20, 21 and 22 are respectfully requested.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-11 AND 20-25 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

DeLorme et al. is directed to a travel information and planning system for processing traveler requests for making travel plans, including making reservations and buying various tickets in "real-time" online - and downloading special discount offers from third-party providers of goods or services (see column 14, lines 27-32). The traveler may obtain from the system, via the traveler's computer, materials such as maps, airline tickets, coupons, vouchers and event tickets (see column 12, lines 36-45).

Accordingly, DeLorme et al. does not disclose or suggest a method for receiving a request from a traveler for obtaining at least one item at the traveler's destination location

which allows the traveler to select a delivery location, which is associated with the destination location, to which the at least one item will be delivered, and arranging for the at least one supplied item to be delivered to the selected delivery location, as recited in Claim 1.

Furthermore, DeLorme et al. does not disclose or suggest a method for receiving a request from a traveler for obtaining at least one item at the traveler's destination location; which allows select the traveler to select a delivery location, which is associated with the destination location, to where the at least one item will be delivered, and arranging for delivery of the at least one item to the selected delivery location, as recited in Claim 20.

Therefore, independent Claims 1 and 20 are patentably distinct over DeLorme et al. Dependent Claims 2-11 and 21, 22 and 25 depend from Claims 1 and 20, respectively, and therefore contain the same limitations as independent Claims 1 and 20, respectively.

Therefore, for at least the same reasons given for independent Claims 1 and 20, Claims 2-11, 21, 22 and 25 are believed to be patentable over DeLorme et al. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection as to Claims 1-11, 20-22 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and the allowance of Claims 1-11, 20-22 and 25 are respectfully requested.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this case, containing Claims 1-11, 20-22 and 25 is in condition for allowance. Such early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Farrell". A long, thin diagonal line extends from the end of the signature towards the top right of the page.

Paul J. Farrell
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A handwritten checkmark in black ink, located to the right of the firm's address.

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Mark up
Requirements as per C.F.R. §1.121(b)(1)(iii)

Marked up paragraphs, to show all relative changes to claims.

1. (Amended) A method for providing a service for a traveler[s] to acquire items at the traveler's destination comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from a traveler for obtaining at least one item at [a location indicative of a] the traveler's destination location [of the traveler, the request including travel data comprising the traveler's time of arrival and destination, and item data comprising data indicative of items being requested];

selecting by the traveler a delivery location, which is associated with the destination location, to which the at least one item will be delivered;

arranging for the at least one item to be supplied;

arranging for the at least one supplied item to be delivered to the selected delivery location [indicated by the traveler's destination at a time indicated by the traveler's arrival time]; and

conducting a transaction with the traveler for the traveler to obtain the at least one item.

2. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of arranging for the at least one item to be supplied further comprises for each of the at least one requested items the steps of:

accessing [a collection of] at least one supplier of the requested items, each supplier [of the collection of at least one supplier] having a location and having [a collection of] at least one item available for being obtained by the traveler;

selecting a supplier [from the collection of the at least one supplier] in accordance with availability of the item and the location of the supplier relative to the [destination of the traveler] selected delivery location; and

arranging for the selected supplier to supply the item.

3. (Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the step of arranging for the at least one item to be delivered further comprises, for each [of the at least one] requested item, the steps of:

accessing [a collection of] at least one shipper, each shipper [of the collection of at least one shipper] designating [a selection of] at least one possible source location from where to ship an item and [a selection of] at least one possible target destination for where to ship an item;

selecting [at least one] a shipper [from the collection of shippers designating] that designates[, as one of individually and in combination,] the location of the selected supplier supplying the item as [a] the possible source location and the [location indicative of the destination of the traveler] selected delivery location as [a] the possible target destination; and

arranging for the [at least one] selected shipper to ship the item from the supplier to the [destination indicative of the destination of the traveler] selected delivery location.

4. (Amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein the step of conducting a transaction with the traveler further comprises:

for each item_i [of the at least one item] transacting with the selected supplier to supply the item;

for each item_i [of the at least one item] transacting with the at least one selected shipper to ship the item; and

transacting with the traveler based on results of the transactions transacted with each [of the] selected supplier[s] and each [of the at least one] selected shipper[s].

5. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of: registering [each] an unregistered traveler making a request by accepting and storing personal data and preference data about the traveler;

storing the request as history data;
accessing the personal data, preference data and history data including previously stored requests of the traveler; and
providing suggestion data to the traveler based on the accessed personal data, preference data and history data of the traveler, the suggestion data providing suggestions for requesting items.

9. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the [item data] request from the traveler includes one or more of: at least one image and a description of [at least one of] the at least one item being requested.

11. (Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein the step of providing an item to be supplied that matches the item data is [interactive] interactively performed including the steps of providing the traveler with a representation of a selection of at least one item being supplied; [for] allowing the traveler to determine if the selection of at least one item being supplied matches the item data[,]; and [for] allowing the traveler to suggest at least one matching item[s].

20. (Amended) A method for providing a service for a traveler to acquire at least one item at the traveler's destination comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from a traveler for obtaining at least one item at the traveler's destination location;

selecting by the traveler a delivery location, which is associated with the destination location, to where the at least one item will be delivered;

providing the traveler with an option to one of rent and purchase the at least one item;

arranging for the at least one item to be supplied;

arranging for delivery of the at least one item to [a] the selected delivery location [selected by the traveler at a time selected by the traveler]; and

conducting a transaction with the traveler for the traveler to obtain the at least one item.

25. (Amended) The method according to [claim 22] Claim 20, wherein when the traveler selects the option to rent the at least one item, further comprising the step of arranging for the [return of] at least one item [of each at least one of them that is rented by the traveler] to be returned.